



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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MENHADEN AND SARDINE HARVESTS BRING 1958 LANDINGS CLOSER TO 1957

Big increases in fall catches of menhaden and California sardines brought the United States fishery harvest for the first nine months of 1958 up almost to the 1957 total for that period, the Department of the Interior reported today.

The most recent tabulations of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, put the catch for the first nine months of 1958 at 3,230 million pounds, or 33 million pounds below the landings for the same period a year ago. Bureau compilations a month earlier showed that the 1958 harvest was running 180 million pounds behind that for 1957.

Species which showed a decline and the amount of the decline include: Menhaden, still down 61 million pounds in spite of recent fine catches; anchovies, 0 million pounds; Alaska herring, 35.5 million; jack mackerel, 63 million; pacific mackerel, 13 million; haddock, 7.4 million; and whiting, 28.7 million. the species with increased catches include ocean perch, up 18 million pounds; salmon 48 million; sardines, 120 million; and California tuna landings 21 million.

The total catch for 1957 was 4.75 billion pounds; the record catch is 5.25 million pounds made in 1956. The largest item in the catch is menhaden which accounts for between 35 percent and 40 percent of the total each year.

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